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COUNT TERAUCHI IS LARGE FACTOR IN JAPAN'S PREMIERSHIP CONTEST

City Editor of Nippon Jiji Describes Political Status in Japan

By K. Kawamura

In the very face of approaching change in the Japanese cabinet, which is now so pressing that any day may see another man as the new premier installed in place of Marquis S. Okuma, the well known aged statesman of Japan, I think an explanation as to the peculiar political situation in the Japanese capital would be beneficial as well as interesting to the American readers who naturally are not perfectly informed with the Japanese situation.

Terauchi Seems Probable

In the first place I must mention, as indicated in our special cables from the Tokyo correspondent, that the choice as the successor to Okuma seems in all probability to fall upon Gen. Count M. Terauchi, soldier-statesman and now governor-general of Korea. He has been only recently created by the emperor a field-marshal, the highest position in the Japanese army, as a reward for his military services to the country, especially in the Russo-Japanese war, 1904-5, during which he acted as the minister of the state of war. He is generally regarded to be the real "boss" of the Japanese army, being only surpassed in influence and reputation as soldier and statesman by Prince A. Yamagata, one of the "genro," or the elder statesmen, who, by the way, happens to be the most determined supporter in Terauchi's contest for the premiership of Japan which brought the governor-general of Korea to Tokyo. I have now every reason to believe that this man Terauchi will be called upon by the emperor to head Japanese affairs following the contemplated resignation of Premier Marquis Okuma.

Why Okuma Must Resign

Okuma is admitted by every one, friend and enemy alike, to be one of the greatest statesmen of Japan today and is well liked. His administration has been very popular among the Japanese people, excepting his political foes, the members of the Seiyukai, the opposition party in the Japanese diet.

The Seiyukai politicians have busily engaged, since they experienced an unexpected defeat in the general election which was held in March of last year, following the dissolution of the diet by the emperor, in a movement which would cause the Okuma ministry to collapse for the lack of confidence. They pointed to the many failures which they claimed Okuma's blunders had caused and made repeated attempts on the floor of the chamber of deputies, during the former session of the diet, to impeach the premier and cabinet, only to be turned down each time they tried by members of the Doshikai, or the government party which possesses the absolute majority in the lower house. The grounds for calling for the impeachment of the cabinet were given in many of the failure to have the Chinese government accept all the still-pending twenty-one demands put on by Japan the scandalous election and the resignation of the late Count Nog's household being some of them.

While his opponents were desperately seeking his scalp, Premier Okuma was sustained. Public opinion at that time opposed any idea of change in the cabinet just prior to the coronation, which is considered to be the greatest event in a mikado's life time, fearing that any change would cause miscarriage in the plans of the solemn ceremonies. Accordingly Okuma held his position and long after the coronation is still holding fast to his own. The aged premier at that time was reported to have promised Viscount F. Kato, the head of Doshikai and then the foreign minister in the Okuma cabinet, to resign some time after coronation to open the way for Kato's appointment as the next head of the government.

Kato is Able Statesman.

Kato is an able statesman and one of the foremost diplomats of Japan, serving thrice as foreign minister, ambassador to Great Britain and in numerous other capacities. He is at present the head of the Doshikai, the largest political party ever formed in Japan, succeeding the late Prince T. Katsura, who had organized it. As Kato has been the right-hand man to Premier Okuma in the present ministry and several other members of the cabinet are the Doshikai men, it is thought to be quite natural to have Kato in place of Okuma, in case the



Gen. Count M. Terauchi

aged premier resigns.

The indication today, however, points a different way as I have said. It is quite possible for one to think that Kato would not be named the next premier since Gen. Count M. Terauchi looms so large in the eyes of Prince A. Yamagata, an elder statesman. In Japan an elder statesman acts as an advisor to the emperor and it is seldom that the emperor appoints a new premier without first conferring with the elder statesmen. There are now three of them—Princes A. Yamagata and I. Oyama, and Marquis M. Matsukata. Prince Oyama is almost incompetent by reason of his advanced age, while Marquis Matsukata has little political ambition. This permits Yamagata alone to have a say in things political at present and no man, however popular with the people, could ever dream of being appointed to the highest position in Japanese affairs without recommendation on the part of the influential prince.

Both Yamagata and Terauchi belong to the so-called Choshu clan and were close associates since youth. To have Terauchi appointed as new premier means a victory for Yamagata himself who might direct the former at his will. Yamagata, who is 88 years old, is so influential in politics that if Terauchi is named to succeed Okuma it will be no surprise to me.

DEFINITE PLAN FOR BOND ISSUE IS NOW PREPARED

Ways and Means Committee to Report to Supervisors Wednesday Night

Definite recommendations as to the amount of the municipal bond issue the people of Honolulu will be asked to vote at the election in November and as to the departments to receive the funds and the amounts that should be allotted to each will be presented to the board of supervisors at its meeting Wednesday evening. This will come in the form of a report from the ways and means committee to which the matter has been referred.

Daniel Logan, F. M. Hatch and Ben Hollinger of the ways and means committee of the supervisors met Friday afternoon and determined on the form their report on proposed bond issue shall take. The committee considered the needs, requests and demands of the various departments with a reasonable certainty of its being voted or spent within a reasonable time owing to local labor conditions. While double the amount recommended might be used to advantage \$750,000 is the figure determined upon. This should be allotted \$325,000 for roads, \$325,000 for water and sewers and \$100,000 for public parks the report of the committee will set forth.

HAPPINESS

True happiness comes only through a comfortable mind and body. Neither mind nor body can be comfortable if you have sore, aching feet, corns or bunions. See Dr. Ryan at McInerney's Shoe Store and be happy.—Adv.

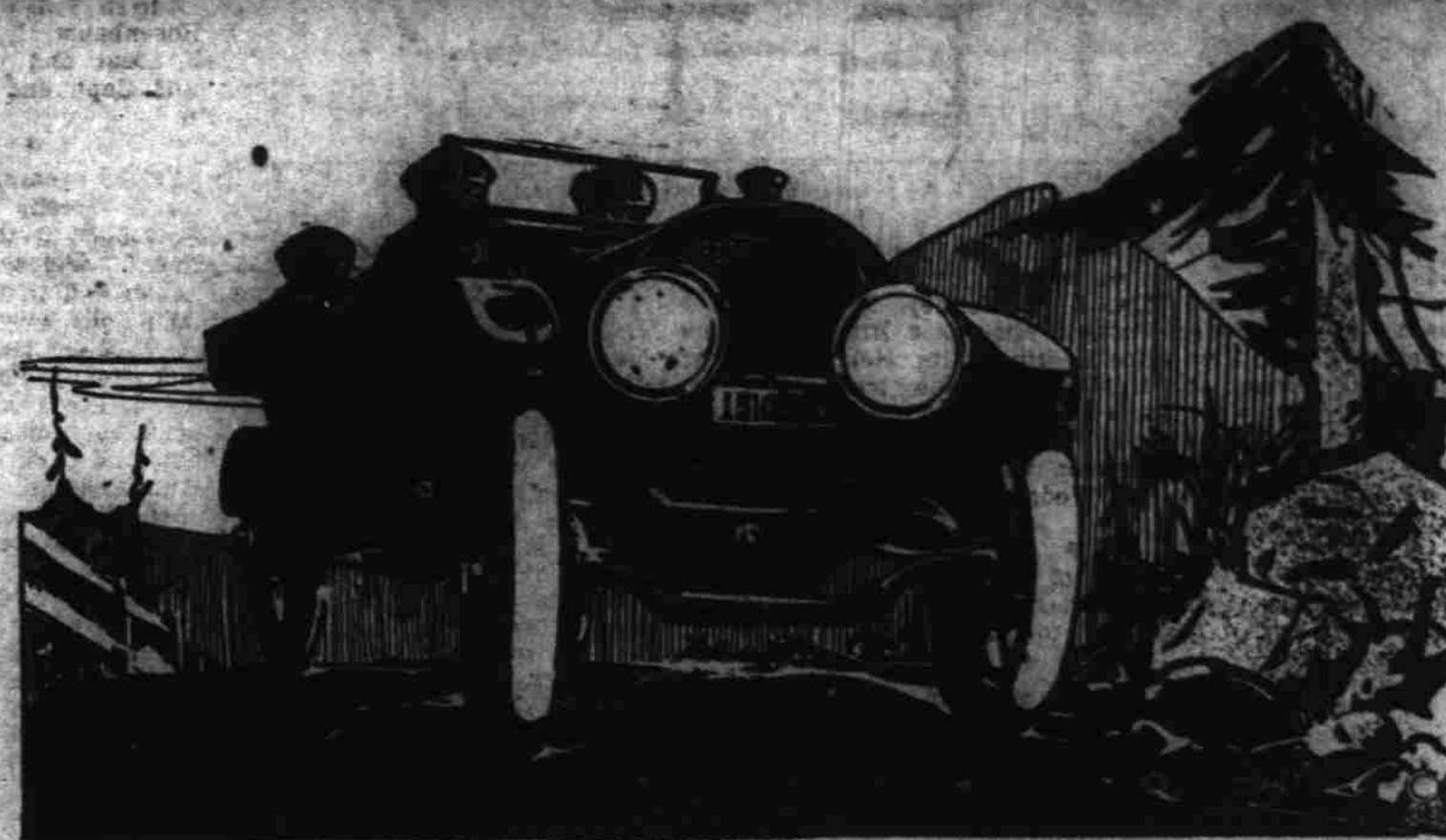
JAPANESE SCHOOL HEADS ARRANGE CONFERENCE ON STUDIES FOR CHILDREN

The Japanese educational board of this city will open a conference of Japanese school teachers of all islands at the central institution on Nuuanu street, on August 7. Four committees, Masahito, Ukai, Takamura, Masuda, all principals of Japanese schools, called upon Consul Moroi Thursday night and made arrangements for the conference. Dr. Haga of the Japanese Imperial university, who has charge of the Hawaiian school text book for the Japanese children here will arrive from the Orient in time to join the conference.

BOYS PERMITTED TO JOIN HIKERS BY RAIL

Any boy who was not able to leave with the other youngsters of the Y. M. C. A. boys' department Friday afternoon on their annual 10 day hike around the island, can join the party by train along the route, by first applying to R. K. Thomas, assistant educational secretary.

For those who desire to take the Kaula 14 day trip, leaving here August 8, Secretary Thomas will be pleased to enter any registrations. The boys who are on the round-the-island hike today are enjoying fine "eats" as they have a regular army cook, Wigenhauser, from Fort Shafter.



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